

ginning to eat. When different pieces were offered to him, he transferred the first to his hind feet to make room for more; then filled his mouth and hands, and concealed portions behind him. With a large piece in his hands he would pick the hand of his master clean before using his own, which he was sure of.—*Proc. Acad. Nat. Sci.* April 1872, p. 40.

Curious Habit of a Snake. By Mr. COPE.

Mr. Cope made the following remarks:—I had for some time a specimen of *Cyclophis astivus*, received from Fort Macon, N. C., through the kindness of Dr. Yarrow, living in a Wardian case. The slender form of this snake, and its beautiful green and yellow colours, have led to the opinion that it is of arboreal or bush-loving habits. It never exhibited such in confinement, however, and instead of climbing over the Caladia, ferns, &c., lived mostly under ground. It had a curious habit of projecting its head and two or three inches of its body above the ground, and holding them for hours rigidly in a fixed attitude. In this position it resembled very closely a sprout or shoot of some green succulent plant, and might readily be mistaken for such by small animals.—*Ibid.*

Eggs and newly hatched Young of Ixodes Dugesii and Argas reflexus.
By GEORGE GULLIVER, F.R.S.

Seeing the dreadful ravages committed of late by the *Ixodes* on sheep and pheasants, and the novelty of *Argas* as a British Arachnid (*Ann. Nat. Hist.* March 1872), any contribution towards the economy of these Acarina may be important or interesting. And now we are able to determine pretty nearly the time and manner in which both these species are hatched. At the meeting of the East Kent Natural-History Society at Canterbury, August 15, 1872, my son exhibited (as reported in the 'Kentish Gazette' newspaper four days afterwards) specimens of the eggs and recently hatched young of both these so-called ticks. The eggs of the *Ixodes* were smooth, regularly oval, about $\frac{1}{10}$ of an inch long, and $\frac{1}{10}$ broad, and of a shining chocolate colour; those of the *Argas* were larger, occasionally sub-oval, but the majority of them globular, about $\frac{1}{34}$ of an inch in diameter, of a greyish colour, and slightly rough on the surface. Adults of the *Ixodes* and *Argas* were confined in separate boxes early in June, and were seen to be lively and unchanged at the end of that month; but the eggs were laid in clumps some time afterwards, and on the 1st of August most of them, both of *Ixodes* and *Argas*, were found to be hatched. The young broods of both species were in most respects miniatures of their parents—only, as is already known of some other Acarina, with but six legs—and running about with great activity; and the newly hatched specimens of *Argas* were hairy, especially at the hinder part, where there is a fringe